

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 181636 TOSEC 080050

EXDIS, FOR DAY FROM NEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PGOV, LE, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY VISIT TO BEIRUT: DEPARTURE STATEMENT

REF: STATE 179457

1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT PRESENT PLANS ARE TO HAVE THE SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE STATEMENT IN BEIRUT REPRODUCED BY THE EMBASSY IN ADVANCE AND, WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF SARKIS, IT WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE PRESS AT THE END OF THE VISIT. THIS WOULD FOLLOW THE FEBRUARY FORMAT WHEN OUR DOLS 50 MILLION PROGRAM WAS ANNOUNCED. FOLLOWING IS PROPOSED TEXT OF DEPARTURE STATEMENT PREPARED IN THIRD PERSON.

--ON DEPARTING BEIRUT, SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE EXPRESSED HIS THANKS TO PRESIDENT SARKIS, PRIME MINISTER AL-HOSS, FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT FOR THE WARM WELCOME AND THE TRADITIONALLY GRACIOUS HOSPITALITY WHICH THEY HAD OFFERED TO
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HIM AND MRS. VANCE, AND THEIR PARTY. THE UNITED STATES, SECRETARY VANCE SAID, GREATLY VALUES THE FRIENDSHIP OF LEBANON AND HE WELCOMED THIS OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WITH PRESIDENT SARKIS AND LEBANESE LEADERS MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

--SECRETARY VANCE REAFFIRMED THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD

SUPPORT LEBANON'S PARTICIPATION IN A RECONVENED GENEVA CONFERENCE. A FULL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS TOOK PLACE ON THE WAYS IN WHICH THE CONCERNED GOVERNMENTS MIGHT PROCEED TOWARDS THE COMMON GOAL OF A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

--SECRETARY VANCE WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE PROGRESS LEBANON HAS MADE IN REBUILDING ITS ECONOMY AND REPAIRING THE RAVAGES OF THE CONFLICT. SUBJECT TO THE CONCURRENCE OF CONGRESS, THE UNITED STATES HOPES IN U.S. FISCAL YEAR 1978 TO MAKE AVAILABLE THE EQUIVALENT OF MORE THAN DOLS 40 MILLION IN VARIOUS KINDS OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. THIS MIGHT INCLUDE PL-480 FOODSTUFFS, HOUSING INVESTMENT GUARANTEES, AND HELP IN THE AREAS OF HEALTH, AGRICULTURE, TRAINING, AND WATER SUPPLY.

--SECRETARY VANCE OPENED DISCUSSIONS ON THIS VISIT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON ON WAYS IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES CAN BE HELPFUL AS LEBANON REBUILDS ITS ARMY. A NATIONAL ARMY IS ESSENTIAL TO REBUILD A UNIFIED STATE. DETAILS WILL HAVE TO BE NEGOTIATED, BUT THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED AT THIS STAGE TO MAKE AVAILABLE DOLS 25 MILLION IN CREDIT FOR THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE NEW ARMY.

--UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE IN THESE AREAS IS CONSISTENT
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WITH LONG-STANDING UNITED STATES SUPPORT FOR LEBANON'S SOVEREIGNTY, ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, ITS UNITY, AND NATIONAL COHESION. CHRISTOPHER

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